

UNCLASSIFIED

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Page: 1

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 08399 091441Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 INR-05 CIAE-00 SP-02
L-01 NSAE-00 HA-02 /040 W
-----020060 100423Z /15

R 091130Z NOV 77
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE 3117
INFO AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

[REDACTED] BUENOS AIRES 8399

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, AR, CI
SUBJECT: DISAPPEARANCE OF MR. AND MRS. JACOBO STOULMAN

REF: (A) STATE 188166, (B) SANTIAGO 7157

1. RABBI MORTON ROSENTHAL, LATIN AMERICAN DIRECTOR, ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE, DURING HIS BRIEF MID-OCTOBER VISITS TO BUENOS AIRES EXPRESSED SERIOUS CONCERN REGARDING THE DISAPPEARANCE OF MR. AND MRS. JACOBO STOULMAN. HE PRESENTED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION REGARDING THE STOULMANS' DISAPPEARANCE TO EMBASSY OFFICIALS:

2. ACCORDING TO FELLOW PASSENGERS, WHEN THE STOULMANS ARRIVED ON MAY 29 IN BUENOS AIRES FROM SANTIAGO, CHILE, ON BRANIFF FLIGHT 979 THEY WERE PICKED UP BY ARGENTINE SECURITY FORCES AT THE FOOT OF THE BOARDING RAMP. THEY HAVE NOT BEEN SEEN SINCE.

3. ACCORDING TO ROSENTHAL THE STOULMAN'S FAMILY SENT TWO LAWYERS
[REDACTED]
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PAGE 02 BUENOS 08399 091441Z

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 1

UNCLASSIFIED

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S20000044)
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/PS
Margaret P. Griefeld, Director
Exemption(s):
() Release () Excise () Deny
Declassify: () In Part () In Full
() Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to
Date Declassify on Reason

Current Class: [REDACTED]
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UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 2

Channel: n/a

Case Number: 200000044

FROM SANTIAGO TO BUENOS AIRES SHORTLY AFTER THE DISAPPEARANCE TO MAKE INQUIRIES. THESE LAWYERS RECEIVED THREATS REGARDING THEIR SAFETY WHICH THEY PRESUMED CAME FROM ARGENTINE SECURITY OFFICIALS AND RETURNED TO SANTIAGO WITHOUT HAVING MADE MUCH PROGRESS IN THEIR INVESTIGATIONS.

4. THE STOULMAN FAMILY ALSO INITIATED INQUIRIES REGARDING THEIR MISSING RELATIVES THROUGH THE GOVERNMENT OF CHILE. MR. JACOBO STOULMAN IS AN IMPORTANT FINANCIAL FIGURE IN CHILE. ROSENTHAL AND THE STOULMAN FAMILY BELIEVE THAT THE STOULMANS WERE PICKED UP FOR QUESTIONING ABOUT POSSIBLE INVOLVEMENT WITH DAVID GRAIVER. THE FAMILY FLATLY DENIES THAT HE EVER HAD ANY BUSINESS DEALINGS WITH GRAIVER. (HOWEVER, ONE WEEK BEFORE THE STOULMANS ARRIVED IN BUENOS AIRES STOULMAN RECEIVED AN "UPSETTING" LONG DISTANCE CALL FROM JOSE KLEIN (FORMER CHILEAN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY FINANCE SECRETARY WHO HAD BUSINESS DEALINGS WITH GRAIVER.))

5. IN RESPONSE TO THE CHILEAN INQUIRY, THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT INFORMED THE GOC THAT (1) THE STOULMANS WERE INTERVIEWED ON MAY 29; (2) THEY WERE RELEASED IN BUENOS AIRES ON MAY 30; (3) THEY TRAVELED ON THAT DATE TO MONTEVIDEO. TO SUPPORT THESE STATEMENTS, THE ARGENTINE AUTHORITIES PROVIDED A MAY 30 PASSENGER LIST FOR A BUENOS AIRES TO MONTEVIDEO FLIGHT WHICH SHOWED MR. AND MRS. STOULMAN'S NAMES LISTED. INFORMATION WAS ALSO PROVIDED REGARDING A HOTEL REGISTRATION FOR MR. AND MRS. STOULMAN IN MONTEVIDEO FOR THAT NIGHT. ROSENTHAL COMMENTED THAT THE HOTEL WAS A CHEAP. RUNDOWN PLACE; CERTAINLY NOT THE TYPE THAT MR. AND MRS. STOULMAN WOULD HAVE SELECTED. (EMBASSY IS AWARE THAT ARGENTINE OFFICIALS HAVE PREVIOUSLY "BACK STOPPED" DISAPPEARANCES WITHIN ARGENTINA OF CHILEAN NATIONALS BY SHOWING EVIDENCE OF THEIR ONWARD TRAVEL TO URUGUAY.)

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PAGE 03 BUENOS 08399 091441Z

6. THE STOULMAN FAMILY TOLD ROSENTHAL THAT SUBSEQUENT TO THE DISAPPEARANCE, THREE LETTERS WERE WRITTEN BY MR. STOULMAN TO HIS BANK IN THE U.S. REQUESTING THE TRANSFERS OF ABOUT \$16,000 TO A BANK ACCOUNT IN MIAMI. THESE LETTERS WERE IN STOULMAN'S HANDWRITING AND SHOWED "URUGUAY" AS THE ONLY RETURN ADDRESS. STOULMAN WAS ALSO REPORTED BY ROSENTHAL TO HAVE MADE A PHONE CALL AFTER HIS DISAPPEARANCE. THE STOULMAN FAMILY HAS NOW ASKED JACOBO STOULMAN'S AMERICAN BANK TO NOTIFY THEM IF THERE ARE ANY

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 2

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: [REDACTED]
Current Handling: LIMDIS
Document Number: 1977BUENOS08399

Page: 3

Channel: n/a

Case Number: 200000044

FURTHER REQUESTS FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OR TRANSFER OF FUNDS.

7. ROSENTHAL PROVIDED DETAILED INFORMATION ON WITHDRAWAL AND TRANSFER OF FUNDS TO LEGATT, WHO IS PURSUING MATTER THROUGH HIS CHANNELS, SO FAR WITHOUT ANY RESULTS REPORTED. ROSENTHAL HOPES ANY POSSIBLE INFORMATION ON EXTORTION COULD BE USED AS LEVERAGE TO OBTAIN THE RELEASE OF THE STOULMANS. ROSENTHAL AWARE OF EXTREME SENSITIVITY OF INFORMATION AND POTENTIAL RISKS TO STOULMANS, SINCE INFORMATION SUGGESTS ARGENTINE POLICE OR SECURITY FORCES INVOLVED IN APPARENT EXTORTION. CHAPLIN

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Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 3

UNCLASSIFIED